

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A monitoring device for a motor vehicle, the device comprising:
at least one display device located in an interior of the vehicle; and
at least one camera arranged in front and/or rear part(s) of the vehicle, with which areas to sides of the vehicle can be observed and displayed on the display device, wherein the camera is arranged on a carrier unit mounted centrally on the vehicle, whereby the carrier unit, if not being used, is retracted into bodywork of the vehicle and can be extended if required.
2. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the carrier unit is integrated into a bumper of the vehicle.
3. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the carrier unit is mounted on an axis such as to pivot.
4. The monitoring device according to Claim 1 characterized in that the camera is a CCD camera.
5. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier unit can at least be locked into a position of rest in order to provide protection against damage or theft.
6. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein two cameras are arranged at the

carrier unit, whereby the one camera can cover an area to the right of the vehicle, and whereby, the other camera can cover an area to the left of the vehicle.

7. The monitoring device according to Claim 6, wherein image data transferred by the two cameras can be displayed next to one another in two areas on the display device.

8. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the monitoring device interacts with a lighting device.

9. The monitoring device according to Claim 8, wherein the lighting device is arranged on the carrier device.

10. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the camera is capable of processing light signals in an infra-red range.

11. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the display device is a navigation display.

12. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the monitoring device is initially equipped with a control device, with which the extension and retraction of the carrier unit or a lighting device respectively can be controlled and/or regulated.

13. The monitoring device according to Claim 1, wherein the monitoring device can be used as a parking aid.